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BLM Distributes \$2.5 Million in "PILT" Checks to South Dakota Counties for Tax-Exempt Lands

BILLINGS – South Dakota counties will receive \$2.5 million for fiscal year 2003 to compensate them for tax-exempt federal lands within their boundaries. This year's payment is about \$16,000 more than last year's total.

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton continues the practice begun in 2002 of sending the PILT payments three months earlier than in previous years. The accelerated payment schedule represents the Secretary's continuing effort to coordinate with local governments as they budget for their fiscal years, many of which begin on July 1.

"PILT payments exemplify the Secretary's commitment to communication, coordination, and consultation, all in the service of conservation," said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. "This money helps communities pay for roads, search-and-rescue operations, and other services," she added.

Congress appropriates funds for PILT payments to eligible units of local government each year. BLM calculates the payment amounts using a formula based on population and the amount of federal land in a jurisdiction. Federal revenue transferred to local governments under other programs, such as income generated from the use of public land for livestock grazing, timber harvests, and mineral receipts, is deducted from the receiving county's PILT payments.

This year, some counties will receive slightly reduced PILT payments to adjust for increased revenue received during the previous fiscal year under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. This Act provides payments to compensate certain counties for declining timber receipts. The combination of PILT payments and payments under the Secure Rural Schools Act, however, will result in a higher overall payment to affected counties. Changes in PILT payments can also occur based on the amount that Congress appropriates for the program in a given fiscal year.

This year's PILT payments of \$218,172,589 represent an increase of more than \$8.8 million over fiscal year 2002. Including this year's payments, the BLM has distributed over \$3.2 billion to local governments since the program began in 1977.

All states except Rhode Island, which has almost no federal land, are receiving PILT payments in 2003. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands also receive PILT payments. The states whose local governments receive the most under the program this year are New Mexico, California, and Utah. A complete list of payments to South Dakota counties is attached.

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SOUTH DAKOTA PILT 2003

Local Unit of Government	Total Paid This FY
Beadle	\$399
Bon Homme	21,848
Brown	109
Brule	16,770
Buffalo	16,930
Butte	218,114
Campbell	30,167
Charles Mix	38,843
Clark	131
Corson	89,747
Custer	127,082
Day	284
Dewey	150,059
Fall River	326,174
Gregory	37,506
Haakon	6,350
Hand	109
Harding	111,920
Hughes	52,393
Hyde	2,365
Jackson	144,782

Local Unit of Government	Total Paid This FY
Jones	26,605
Lawrence	50,652
Lyman	142,931
McPherson	218
Meade	53,539
Pennington	406,566
Perkins	148,980
Potter	22,393
Roberts	744
Shannon	2,691
Spink	1,004
Stanley	149,731
Sully	65,967
Tripp	218
Walworth	27,984
Yankton	4,947
Ziebach	3,888
TOTAL	\$2,501,140

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